THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Funding for National Highways Project

3210. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funding for National Highways Projects through NHAI is keeping pace with the projected requirements;

(b) whether the Capital Expenditure through NHAI for the year 2004-05 projected at Rs. 9000/- Crores is less than the previous years' allocations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the foreign direct investment in road transport and highway sector during the past year has not been substantial; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) the expenditure is projected based on requirement of the projects as per project cycle. However, there is no short fall in progress of the projects.

(d) and (e) The foreign direct investment is made in the from of equity/ debt by the concessionaire of BOT/Annuity projects. It is not received by the Authority.

Smart-Licence Plates

3211. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has recently gave a verdict on use of 'Smart license plates' in every vehicle;

(b) if so, how many millions of persons, who are painting and/or engraving license plates at present would become redundant; and